

**Message on the Observance
of Eid Al-Fitr, 2000**

December 22, 2000

On behalf of the American people, it is my honor to congratulate Muslims around the world on the occasion of the Eid Al-Fitr.

Whether native-born or immigrants from Africa, the Middle East, Asia, or Europe, Muslims now represent an increasingly important element in the tapestry of American society. Because of the growth of Islam in our country, American citizens of all faiths are coming to appreciate the significance of Ramadan as Muslims fast, pray, and rededicate themselves to the teachings of the Qur'an.

United in faith, America's Muslims are also united in their commitment to building a society rich in diversity and grounded in mutual respect. I believe America is made stronger by the core values of Islam—commitment to family, compassion for the disadvantaged, and respect for difference.

There is special significance this year as the three Abrahamic faiths all celebrate holidays in the span of the same week. As Jews celebrate Hanukkah, Christians celebrate Christmas, and now Muslims celebrate Eid Al-Fitr. The Qur'an, the Bible, and the Torah all call on believers to love one's neighbors and to welcome strangers. The Qur'an tells us that we are all People of the Book and that we share a common humanity and dignity.

As the appearance of the new moon brings to a close this holy month, we all pray that it will usher in a year of reconciliation and peace. The First Lady and I wish all Muslims a blessed celebration of the Eid Al-Fitr and peace, health, and prosperity in the years ahead.

Eid mubarak.

Bill Clinton

**Message on the Observance
of Christmas, 2000**

December 22, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Christmas.

At this joyous season each year, we savor our treasured Christmas traditions: a favorite ornament placed carefully on the tree, candles in the windows, a wreath on the door, family and friends gathered to exchange not only material gifts, but also the gifts of love and laughter. But amidst all these traditions, we remember that the true message of Christmas is in the Child whose birth we celebrate—the living proof of God's mercy and unending love. Christ's message of renewal and reconciliation is as fresh and powerful today as it was on that first Christmas two thousand years ago.

For Americans of many faiths, this is a season of renewal—of light shining through the darkness, of despair transformed to hope. This year, Christmas is celebrated during the same week as Jews celebrate Hanukkah and Muslims celebrate the Eid Al-Fitr—a powerful and moving reminder that followers of the three Abrahamic faiths share fundamental values: a reverence for our Creator, a belief in human dignity, and a conviction that we must love our neighbors as ourselves. By building on these shared values, we can create a future where all God's children live together in peace and understanding.

As Hillary, Chelsea, and I enjoy our last Christmas in the White House, we extend best wishes to all for a wonderful celebration and for peace and happiness in the years to come.

Bill Clinton

**Message on the Observance
of Kwanzaa, 2000**

December 22, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone celebrating Kwanzaa.

One of the best ways we can shape the future is to preserve what we value of our past. The celebration of Kwanzaa is a wonderful example of this endeavor. With its focus on the values that have sustained African Americans through the centuries—unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith—Kwanzaa also emphasizes the importance of strong families and

communities to our success as a nation in the years to come.

African Americans have a proud history and a rich heritage. During this holiday season, as Americans of many different backgrounds remember and rejoice in their cultural and religious traditions, let us all give thanks for the diversity that is among America's greatest strengths, and let us unite around the shared dreams and values that bind us together as one nation.

Hillary joins me in sending best wishes to all for a memorable Kwanzaa and for peace and happiness in the years to come.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 18

In the morning, the President met in the Oval Office with President Jacques Chirac of France in Mr. Chirac's capacity as President of the European Union. Later, the President met with participants of the European Union summit in the Oval Office.

In the evening, the President traveled to New York City. Later, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edwin A. Levine to be Assistant Administrator for the Environmental Information and Chief Information Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to designate Charles H. Cole as Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

The President announced the recess appointment of James J. Hoecker as a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Susan Ness as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Maj. Gen. James R. Klugh, USA (Ret.), as a member of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

December 19

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President hosted a "Christmas Story Hour," in which he read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to a group of children in the East Room.

December 20

In the afternoon, the President met with Israeli and Palestinian Middle East peace process negotiators in the Cabinet Room.

The President announced the appointment of Julie E. Samuels as Director of the National Institute of Justice.

The President announced the reappointment of Marilyn Golden and the appointment of Soy Williams as members of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

December 21

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt concerning the Middle East peace process. The White House announced that the President met with local Muslim leaders honoring the holy month of Ramadan.

The President announced his intention to appoint Frank H. Pearl and Mark S. Weiner to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President announced the recess appointment of David Z. Plavin as a member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council.

The President announced the recess appointment of Arthenia L. Joyner as a member of the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council.

The President announced the recess appointment of Elwood (Elgie) Holstein, Jr., as Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced the recess appointment of Gregory M. Frazier as Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the U.S. Trade Representative.